



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 0.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 2009, down 51 percent from April 2008 and down 8 percent from March 2009. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, 1,300 head below one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,205 pounds, increased 90 pounds from last year.

During April, Montana plants slaughtered 600 hogs, down 600 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, was down 50 pounds from last year. April sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down 100 head from April 2008. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 101 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in April, down 5 percent from the 4.30 billion pounds produced in April 2008.

Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, down 6 percent from April 2008. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 6 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 7 percent from April 2008. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last year, at 281 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.92 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.43 million head, down 6 percent from April 2008. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from April 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled

229,100 head, 4 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 3 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2009 commercial red meat production was 16.2 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was down 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 6 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on May 1, 2009. The inventory was 3 percent below May 1, 2008.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 4 percent above 2008. Net placements were 1.53 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 315,000, 700-799 pounds were 405,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 525,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.87 million, 7 percent below 2008.

Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during April, 8 percent below 2008. This is the second lowest other disappearance for the month of April since the series began in 1996.

U.S. Potato Stocks Down 10 Percent from May 2008

Montana potato stocks were not published for May 2009.

The 13 major potato States held 75.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2009, down 10 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below May 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 21 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, unchanged from May 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 750 thousand cwt on May 1, 2009, up 32 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 292 million cwt, was 7 percent below May 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-

date shrink and loss, at 22.3 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in both 2007 and 2008. Processors in the 9 major States have used 149 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 10 percent from the same period last year and down 9 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

April U.S. Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.46 billion during April 2009, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.41 billion table eggs, and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 980 million were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2009 averaged 340 million, down slightly from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,196 eggs, up 2 percent from April 2008.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2009 totaled 339 million, down slightly from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.01 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2009, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from May 1, 2008.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2009 totaled 40.6 million, down 4 percent from April 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on May 1, 2009, down 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 307 thousand during April 2009, up 16 percent from April 2008.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2009 totaled 756 million, down 6 percent from April 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 628 million on May 1, 2009, down 6 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.16 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2009, down 13 percent from April 2008.

U.S. Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 903,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 680,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 223,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.84 per hour during the April 2009 reference week, up 27 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.99 per hour, up 34 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.25 per hour compared with \$10.24 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.07 per hour, was up 23 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California and in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and

Pennsylvania), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. In California, below normal snowpack has led to serious cutbacks in available irrigation water. Therefore, considerable acreage has been left fallow, reducing the demand for field workers. Persistent rain and wet conditions in the Corn Belt I region curtailed most field activities, so fewer hired workers were required. In the Northeast II and Appalachian II regions, the cool, wet spring kept crop development behind normal, lessening the need for field workers. Small grain planting in the Pacific region was considerably behind the normal pace due to cool temperatures and wet soils. Therefore, field worker demand was lower than the previous year.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Southern Plains, (Oklahoma and Texas), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. Declining pasture conditions in the Southern Plains region led to increased supplemental feeding and increased the demand for livestock workers. Also, cotton planting in southern Texas gained momentum, so

more field workers were required. In the Delta region, continued strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industries resulted in more hired workers. High demand from poultry operations in the Southeast region pushed worker numbers above last year. In the Lake region, drier conditions compared with last year's extremely wet reference week led to increased worker demand. Snowstorms in New Mexico caused livestock stress and more supplemental feeding in the Mountain III region. Also, cotton planting in Arizona was in full swing. These factors led to a greater need for hired workers.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific, Northeast II, Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Southern Plains regions. The higher wages in the Pacific region were due to more salaried workers working fewer hours. In the Northeast II region, a higher percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers caused the average wage to increase. The higher wages in the Appalachian I, Mountain I and Southern Plains regions were due to a lower proportion of part time workers.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 6-12, 2008 and April 12-18, 2009 1/

| U.S. and Region 2/ | TYPE OF WORKER | | | | | | Wage Rates for All Hired Workers | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| | Field | | Livestock | | Field & Livestock | | | | | |
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | | | | |
| | Dollars per Hour | | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast I | 10.19 | 10.65 | 9.97 | 9.92 | 10.10 | 10.35 | 11.00 | 11.17 | | |
| Northeast II | 9.71 | 10.60 | 8.77 | 8.86 | 9.42 | 9.95 | 10.00 | 11.10 | | |
| Appalachian I | 9.34 | 10.16 | 9.54 | 10.40 | 9.40 | 10.25 | 9.98 | 11.00 | | |
| Appalachian II | 8.87 | 9.23 | 10.07 | 9.62 | 9.44 | 9.40 | 10.05 | 10.10 | | |
| Southeast | 8.93 | 8.80 | 8.81 | 9.84 | 8.90 | 9.00 | 9.66 | 9.22 | | |
| Florida | 9.32 | 9.15 | 9.59 | 9.35 | 9.35 | 9.17 | 10.25 | 10.33 | | |
| Lake | 10.57 | 10.92 | 10.78 | 10.83 | 10.70 | 10.88 | 11.25 | 11.55 | | |
| Cornbelt I | 10.32 | 10.93 | 10.73 | 10.44 | 10.45 | 10.72 | 11.43 | 11.70 | | |
| Cornbelt II | 10.65 | 10.35 | 12.20 | 12.45 | 11.50 | 11.15 | 11.88 | 11.80 | | |
| Delta | 8.77 | 9.30 | 8.84 | 8.84 | 8.80 | 9.20 | 9.45 | 9.60 | | |
| Northern Plains | 10.73 | 10.78 | 10.20 | 10.08 | 10.40 | 10.35 | 11.00 | 10.80 | | |
| Southern Plains | 8.51 | 9.67 | 9.74 | 9.93 | 9.05 | 9.80 | 9.72 | 10.40 | | |
| Mountain I | 9.46 | 10.23 | 9.09 | 10.01 | 9.25 | 10.10 | 9.50 | 10.45 | | |
| Mountain II | 9.33 | 9.68 | 9.81 | 10.09 | 9.55 | 9.90 | 10.05 | 10.60 | | |
| Mountain III | 9.38 | 9.16 | 10.69 | 9.44 | 9.97 | 9.29 | 10.55 | 10.10 | | |
| Pacific | 9.14 | 10.67 | 11.34 | 12.09 | 9.41 | 10.80 | 10.00 | 11.55 | | |
| CA | 10.00 | 9.96 | 11.00 | 10.85 | 10.16 | 10.14 | 11.05 | 11.07 | | |
| Hawaii 3/ | 10.80 | 11.30 | | | 10.91 | 11.40 | 13.28 | 13.36 | | |
| US 4/ | 9.65 | 9.99 | 10.24 | 10.25 | 9.84 | 10.07 | 10.57 | 10.84 | | |

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.

Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

2008 Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income

Cash receipts from the 2008 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled \$1.1 billion, up 4 percent from 2007. Cash receipts for cattle and hogs were up from the previous year, but sheep cash receipts were down. Census revisions were made for the years 2003-2007. The full report is available on the web at www.nass.usda.gov.

Cash receipts from the sale of cattle and calves in Montana during 2008 were up 4 percent from 2007 to \$1.0 billion. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.3 million head, were up 8 percent from 2007. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased 11 percent from the previous year to 250,000 head. The average price received in 2008 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs decreased \$2.30 per cwt to \$87.50 per cwt. Market year average price for calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased \$14.00 per cwt to \$109.00 per cwt.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana rose 8 percent from 2007 to \$42.2 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs rose 17 percent from the previous year to 382,800 head. The average price received for hogs was down \$0.80 to \$47.10 per cwt.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were down 7 percent from the previous year to \$17.5 million. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2008 were 53,000 and 175,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were down 1,000 head from last year and lamb marketings were down 11,000 head. The average price for lambs dropped \$1.00 to \$100.00 per cwt and sheep were \$4.90 below last year at \$19.00 per cwt.

The U.S. 2008 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs totaled \$65.2 billion, down 1 percent from 2007. Gross income decreased for cattle and calves and sheep and lambs, but increased for hogs and pigs. Gross income from the sale of cattle and calves decreased 3 percent, sheep and lambs decreased 5 percent, while hogs and pigs increased 9 percent.

Total U.S. 2008 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals decreased 1 percent to \$64.7 billion. Cattle and

calves accounted for 74 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 25 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production decreased for all cattle and calves and sheep and lambs while production increased for hogs and pigs.

U.S. cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves decreased 3 percent from \$49.8 billion in 2007 to \$48.2 in 2008. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 54.2 billion pounds in 2008, down 1 percent from 2007. Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$16.1 billion during 2008, up 9 percent from 2007. Marketings totaled 32.7 billion pounds in 2008, up 8 percent from 2007. Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2008 were \$451 million, down 5 percent from 2007. Marketings decreased 6 percent to 526 million pounds.

2008 Milk Production, Disposition and Income

Montana's dairies produced 313 million pounds of milk in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. There was an average of 17,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, down 1,000 head from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2008 was 18,412 pounds, 88 pounds below 2007.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were \$58.0 million dollars, down 5 percent from 2007. Producers received an average of \$19.00 per cwt, an increase of \$0.30 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 305 million pounds, were down 7 percent from a year ago. A total of 8 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches, up 2 million pounds from 2007. Of the total, 4 million pounds were fed to calves and 4 million pounds were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

U.S. milk production increased 2.3 percent in 2008 to 190 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 20,396 pounds, was 192 pounds above 2007. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.32 million head, up 126,000 head from 2007.

Cash receipts from marketings of U.S. milk during 2008 totaled \$34.8 billion, 1.9 percent lower than 2007. Producer returns averaged \$18.41 per hundredweight, 4.2 percent below 2007. Marketings totaled 189 billion pounds,

2.4 percent above 2007. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

For the U.S. an estimated 1.08 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.0 percent less than 2007. Calves were fed 88 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2008 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2008 was \$9.6 million, up 19 percent from last year. Egg production in 2008 totaled 115 million eggs, up 7 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was \$0.998 per dozen, up from \$0.904 per dozen in 2007.

For the United States, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2008 was \$35.9 billion, up 11 percent from the \$32.2 billion in 2007. Of the combined total, 64 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2008 was \$23.1 billion, up 7 percent from 2007. The total number of broilers produced in 2008 was 9.01 billion, up 1 percent from 2007. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2008 was 50.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2007. The 2008 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 45.8 cents per pound, compared with 43.6 cents in 2007.

Value of all egg production in 2008 was \$8.23 billion, up 22 percent from the \$6.72 billion in 2007. Egg production totaled 90.2 billion eggs, down 1 percent from the 91.1 billion eggs produced in 2007. In 2008, all eggs averaged 109.0 cents per dozen, compared with 88.5 cents in 2007.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2008 was \$61.8 million, up 20 percent from the \$51.5 million a year ago. Prices averaged 6.6 cents per pound, compared with 5.6 cents in 2007. The number of chickens sold in 2008 totaled 176 million, up 5 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

2007 Census of Agriculture Data Now Available at the Watershed Level

For the first time, results from the Census of Agriculture have been published at the watershed level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"Many agricultural and environmental interests are looking for quality data about agricultural land use at the watershed level," said Steve Anderson, director of NASS Montana Field Office. "We're proud to meet this need and for the first time present agricultural data that conform to

geographic boundaries." Montana has 15 watersheds included in the report. The largest watersheds are the Missouri Headwaters, Fort Peck Lake, Musselshell, and the Upper and Lower Yellowstone.

In the new publication, NASS reports selected data from the 2007 Census of Agriculture according to watershed boundaries set by the U.S. Geological Survey. Watershed information from the 2002 Census of Agriculture is published alongside the 2007 Census results to demonstrate changes in land use, production practices and livestock distribution over the past five years.

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation.

For more information about the Census of Agriculture and to access the watershed publication, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-800-727-9540.

"Once again, we would like to thank Montana's farmers and ranchers for doing their part in providing this useful information," said Anderson.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Winter Wheat Production
Wheat Supply & Demand
Estimates

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